

STUDY GUIDE

THE GOLDEN DREAM

(LA JAULA DE ORO)



Director: Diego Quemada-Díaz, México, 2013

Main Characters: Juan, Chauk, & Sara

Setting: From Guatemala, through Mexico, to the United States

Historical context: The country of Guatemala is very dangerous for the people that live there. The people living within the city live in crowded conditions where there are high crime rates. In the 1960s there was a shift in military power, and the environment became even more dangerous for the people in Guatemala, especially for the indigenous people living outside of the city. Because of this, children in these communities are sent on a long journey to the United States in hopes of having better opportunities for their lives. They face many dangerous obstacles every step of the way.

Synopsis:

Complete the synopsis with the words below:

An unconventional _____ movie about a group of _____ teenage Guatemalan immigrants and their journey to what they hope will be a bright new life in the US. On their way, they meet Chauk, a Tzotzil Indian who doesn't speak Spanish. Together, their _____ to America will be a dangerous one, joining many other migrants who travel on this _____ route in search of the American Dream. Unfortunately, they are ill-prepared for the precarious journey and the _____ of what awaits them. A tough, uncompromising, but moving _____ to the power of friendship and camaraderie in the most testing of _____.

reality	journey	infamous	undocumented
testament	Road	circumstances	

Discussion Points:

- 1- Why do you think Sara disguised herself as a boy in preparation for the journey?
- 2- The Spanish title for the film is *La Jaula de Oro*, which translates as 'The Golden cage'. How do you think this relates to the message of the film?
- 3- When do the friends make reference to "*sueños de oro*" (golden dreams) and in what context is it mentioned?
- 4- How did the Spanish speakers Juan and Sara communicate with the indigenous boy Chauk?
- 5- What was the first Spanish word that Chauk used independently, and why do you think this was?
- 6- What imagery and symbolism was repeated throughout the film? How did you interpret it?
- 7- What is the film social or/and cultural context and why do we need to know it to better understand the film?

Written Production:

Bearing in mind the movie, explain what the US America represents for people around the world and why so many people want to make a life for themselves there, even if the journey can pose a number of risks.

In about 200 -250 write an explanation on this topic.